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15th of June 2008 (Sun) #1

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Configuring and using the Canon WFT-E2A WiFi Transmitter on a Mac OS X system

According to Canon's documentation, the WFT-E2A transmitter can be operated in one of three network protocols, FTP, PTP and HTTP. But what does that mean? I'm familiar with these protocols in the general sense but I really couldn't appreciate their implementation on the WFT-E2A transmitter until I had a chance to play with one this weekend.

The purpose of this thread is not to review the WFT-E2A transmitter although I may do that some time in the near future. What this thread will attempt to do is to explain how to configure the WFT-E2A transmitter and your computer for each of the three networking protocols (in three thread installments, one thread for each protocol).

WFT-E2A Uses

In order to appreciate the three protocols implemented on the WFT-E2A transmitter, you need to have some idea of what you want to use the transmitter for.

Below are brief descriptions of each protocol and their more common usage.

1) **FTP** - Transferring images from camera to computer automatically while shooting or by selecting or batching after shooting.

Useful for event photographers who need to send the images off to a central location for processing and/or printing as soon as possible.

2) **PTP** - Controlling and shooting a remote camera from a computer with the captured images getting downloaded to the computer immediately after shooting. Useful for studio photographer who want to shoot "tethered" (tethering can be wired or wireless).

3) **HTTP** - Accessing the images in the camera storage cards using an internet web browser. Camera can also be triggered, but not controlled, remotely using the web browser without the need to start up a proprietary program like the EOS Utility.

Because the three protocols have different configuration requirements, anybody who buys the WFT-E2A expecting to be able to take the transmitter out of the box, plug it into the camera and start shooting is going to be in for a big disappointment. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as that. But on the bright side, it's not that complicated, either, if you have some basic understanding of the networking requirements.

Hopefully, I'll be able to provide enough information to help you set up your WTF-E2A transmitter without much difficulty. The actual

configuration procedure detailed later in this thread is for the Mac OS X system but the general principle should also apply to the Windows system.

Essential Networking Basics:

Network Types

The first thing you need to understand is that there are two types of network that you can connect the WFT-E2A transmitter to. They are the Infrastructure network and the peer-to-peer ad hoc network:

1) **Infrastructure** network - A pre-established home or business network with one or more network routers and/or access points and devices, like computers and other "intelligent" devices (PDAs, cameras, etc), that talk to each other over the network.

2) **Ad hoc** peer-to-peer network - An ad hoc network connection between two or more computers and/or "intelligent" devices.

An infrastructure network is a permanent network while an ad hoc network is usually set up temporarily.

Network Addresses

Another thing that you need to know about relating to networks is that each and every device connected to a network needs to have a unique address. An analogy is a telephone network where each phone, discounting the extensions, on the phone network has a unique phone number associated with it. The address assigned to network devices are referred to as the **IP address**.

An IP address can be assigned permanently to a particular network device or it can be assigned temporarily. When an IP address is permanently assign to a device, any other device on the network can communicate with that device once the address is known.

When an IP address is assigned temporarily, all the other devices that want to communicate with that device will need to acquire the latest address assigned to it before communications can begin. Fortunately, there is one device on the network, called the DNS server, whose job is to keep track of all temporary IP addresses assigned to devices on the network so that the other devices do not have to. They just go to the DNS server for the IP address when they need to talk to another device. All that's needed to get the correct IP address of a device on the network is the device name. Using the telephone analogy, this would be like calling the operator and getting a person's phone number using the person's name as a reference. The significance for this will be seen later when we go through the procedure of configuring the WFT-E2A transmitter for a PTP session in an infrastructure network.

One final note about the network is that devices can be physically connected to the network using an ethernet cable or wirelessly using RF (radio frequency). Devices that are connected wirelessly to a network make up their own sub-network that is identified by a unique name called the **SSID** (Service Set Identifier).

You have to make sure that the IP addresses and SSID, if applicable, are specified correctly during the configuration of the WFT-E2A transmitter to ensure a trouble-free setup!

>> cont'd >>

_____

..Leo

Last edited by PacAce : 16th of June 2008 (Mon) at 00:22.

quote

16th of June 2008 (Mon) #2

PacAce
Moderator

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Practical Application

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

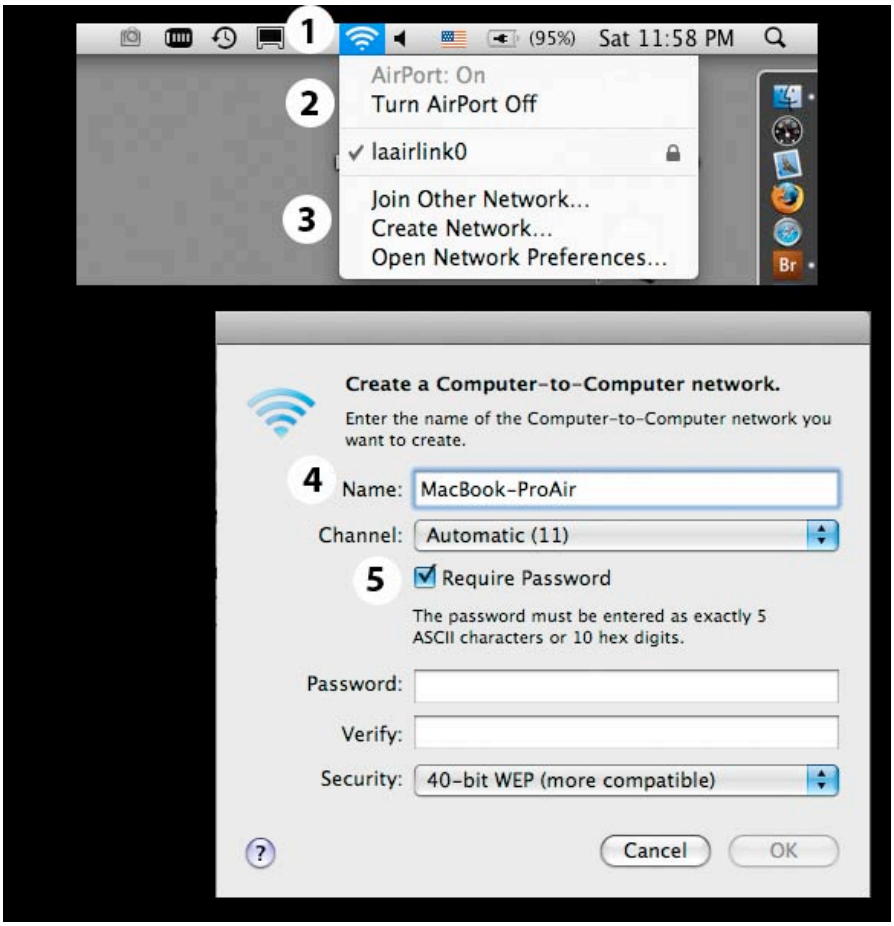
Ad Hoc Wireless FTP Scenario

You are an event photographer and need to have your images transferred immediately after shooting to a computer operated by your assistant so that they can be processed and printed on-site. But there is no infrastructure network at the venue to which you can connect your computer, a MacBook Pro running OS X 10.5 (Leopard), and your camera, a 1DmkIII with a WFT-E2A transmitter attached.

You are also going to be running around all over the place taking pictures so you can't be hampered by a cable that connects your camera to the computer. This means that your camera will need to be connected wirelessly to the computer.

So, what do you need to do to get the camera talking to the computer and transferring your images wirelessly and automatically? The first thing you'll need to set up an ad hoc network. This is done on the MacBook Pro. You will also need to enable FTP access on the computer so that the camera can transfer images to the computer using the FTP protocol. On the camera side, you will need to configure the WFT-E2A for an FTP session so that it can talk to the MacBook Pro. The procedure for doing all these are detailed below.

Creating the Ad Hoc Network



1. Click on the AirPort icon on the right side of the task bar at the top of the screen. A popup menu will appear.

2. If AirPort is **off**, click **Turn AirPort On** in the popup menu to turn it on and then click on the AirPort icon again to redisplay the popup menu.

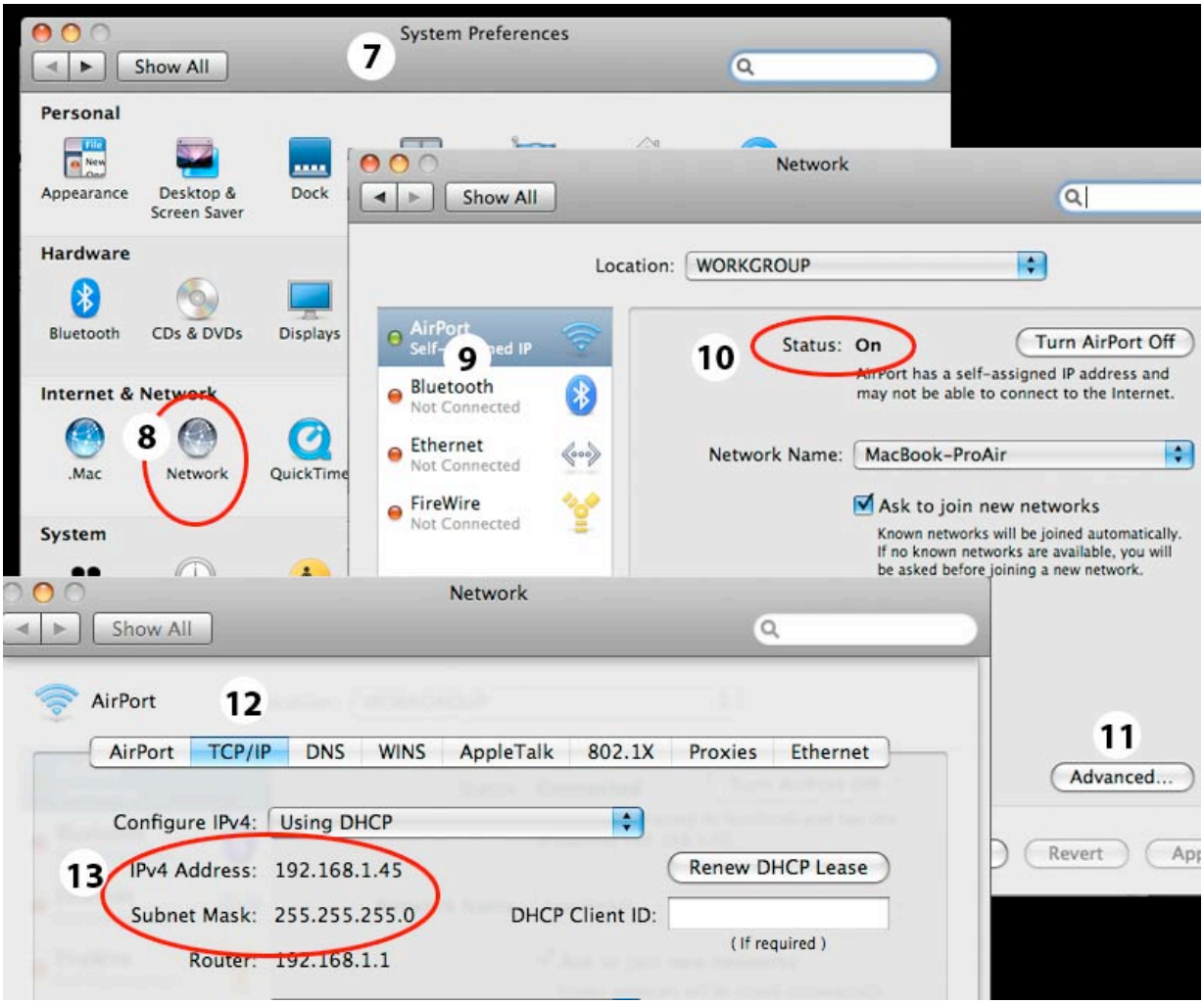
3. Click on **Create Network...**.

4. In the **Create a Computer-to-Computer network** window, enter a unique name for your ad hoc network, for example, **MacBook-ProAir**. This is going to be the **SSID** of our ad hoc wireless network.

You can leave the Channel at the default value of 11 or change it if channel 11 is already in use.

5. If you are paranoid like me and don't want anybody else accessing your ad hoc network, select **Require Password** and enter a 5 character password in the **Password** and the **Verify** fields.

6. Click **OK** to create the ad hoc network. Notice that the AirPort icon changed to an icon with a computer in it.



7. Now that the ad hoc network has been created, you will need to see what IP address is assigned to the computer. Start up **System Preferences** from the **Applications** folder.

8. Click on **Network** in the **Internet & Network** panel in the middle of the **System Preferences** window.

9. Click on **AirPort** in the left side panel to select it.

10. At the top of the right side panel, **Status** should show as **On**. If not, go back to Step 1 and try again.

11. Click on the **Advanced** button at the lower right bottom of the window.

12. In the new AirPort window, click on the **TCP/IP** tab.

13. Note the IP address specified in the **IPv4 Address** field. You'll need this when setting up the WFT-E2A transmitter later.

*Note: When the IP address for the computer is assigned dynamically (i.e. **Configure IPv4** is set to **Using DHCP**, you might find that the IP address changes each time an ad hoc session is created. This will then necessitate a corresponding change to the IP address specified on the camera. To prevent the IP address from changing, you can manually assign a fixed IP address to the computer. The WFT-E2A transmitter expects the FTP server to have an IP address of **192.168.1.20** (at least, that's the default on mine; your default may be different) so you can, if you wish, assign this address to the computer. This will then result in one less setting to change when configuring the WFT-E2A transmitter.*

*To manually assign an IP address, change **Configure IPv4** to **Using DHCP with manual address** and then enter the desired IP address into the **IPv4 Address** field. Click **OK** and then click **Apply** in the Network window to apply the change.*

14. Exit out of all the open System Preferences windows.

>> cont'd >>

..Leo

Last edited by PacAce : 18th of June 2008 (Wed) at 20:04. Reason: spelling and sytax correction

quote

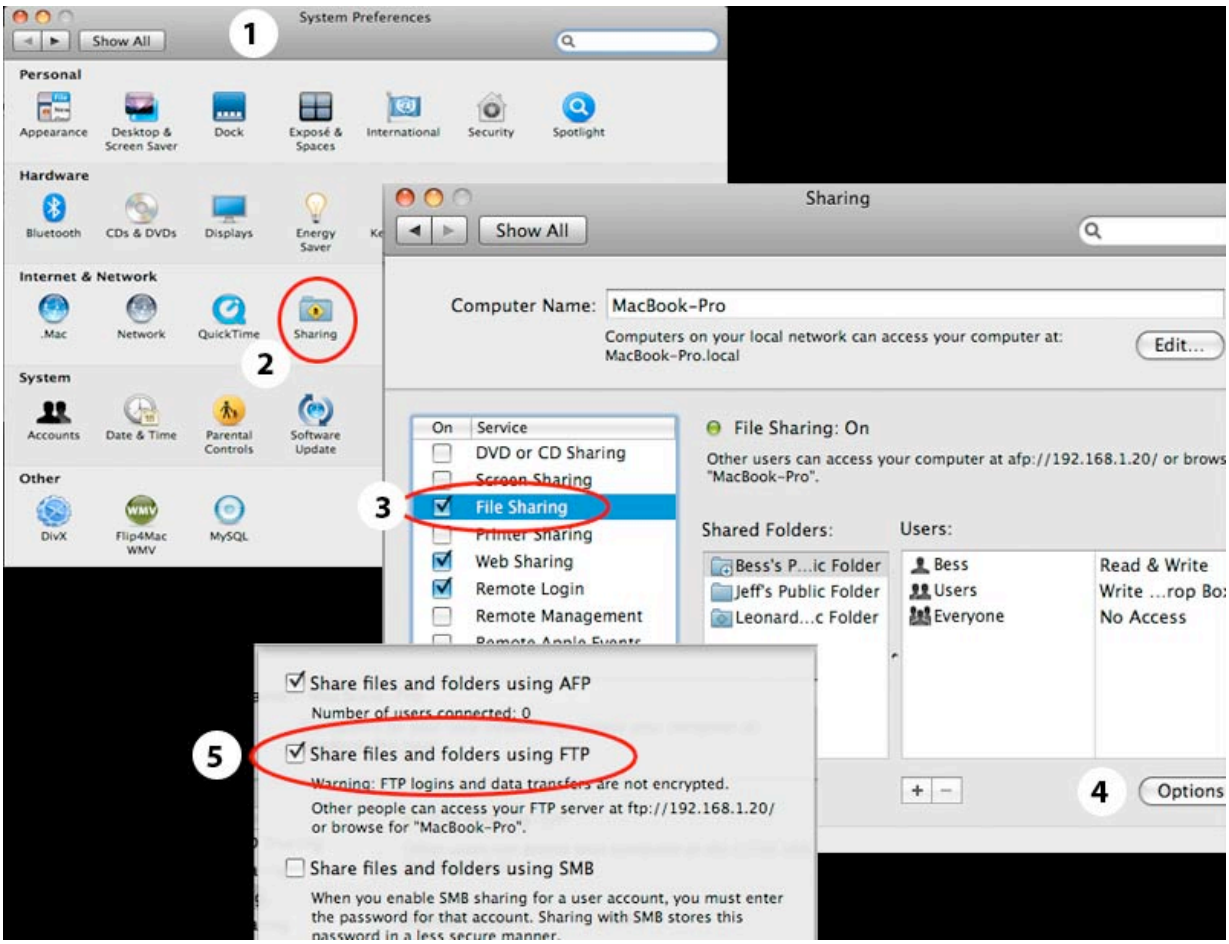
16th of June 2008 (Mon) #3

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Enabling FTP Access



1. Start up **System Preferences** from the **Applications** folder.

2. Click on **Sharing** in the **Internet & Network** panel in the middle of the **System Preferences** window.

3. Click on **File Sharing** in the **Service** panel to select it. Then click on the box next to it if it isn't checked already.

4. With **File Sharing** still selected, click on the **Options** button on the lower right corner of the window.

5. In the window that pops up, click on the box beside **Share files and folders using FTP** if it isn't already checked. Click **Done** to exit the window.

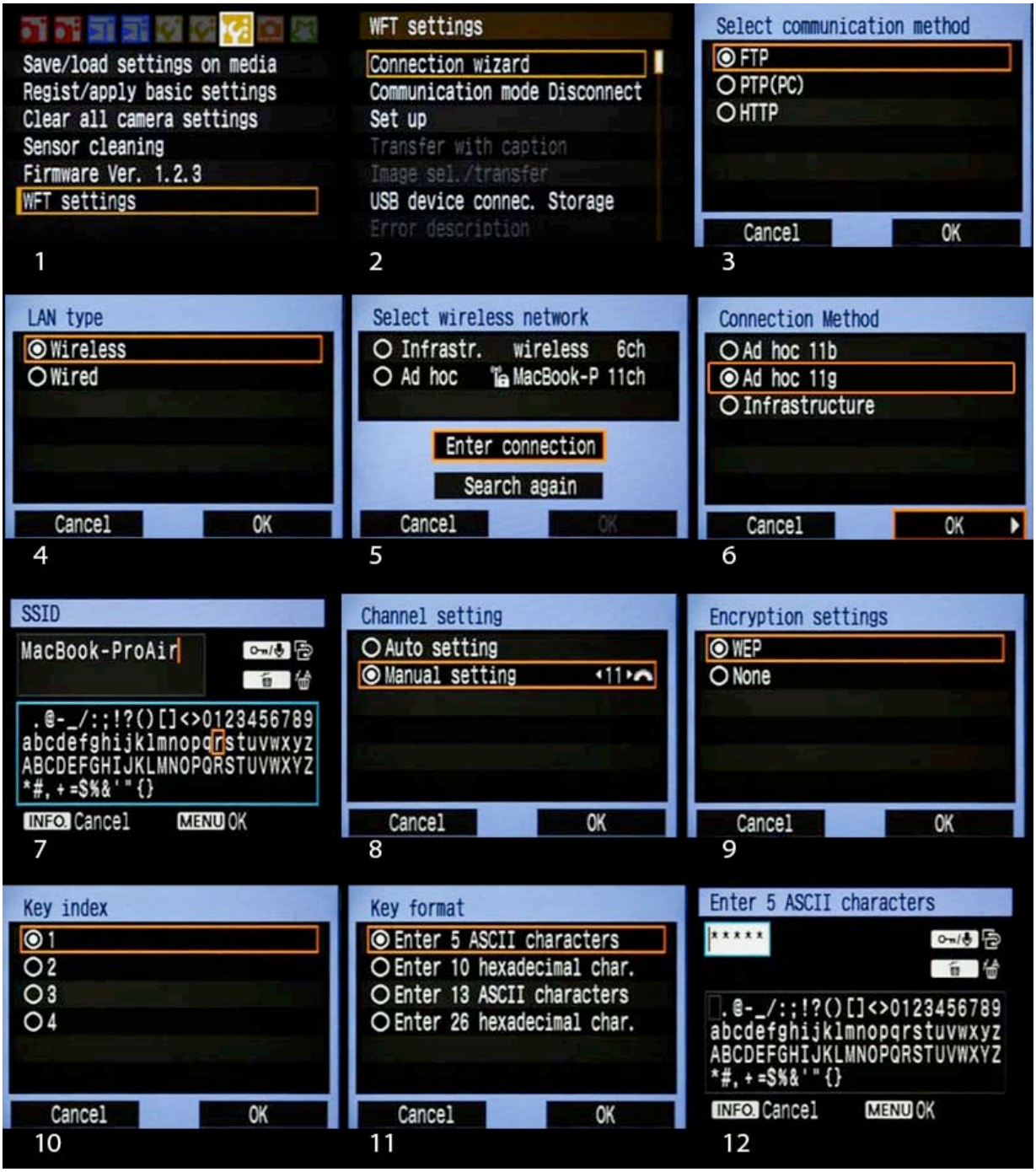
Configuring the WFT-E2A transmitter

Pictures are worth a thousand words so I'll just let the 1DmkIII menu screen shots speak for themselves with notes, tied to a particular screenshot by reference numbers, added where required for clarification.

(7) The SSID you need to enter here is the same SSID you specified in Step 4 in **Creating the Ad Hoc Network** above.

(8) Set the Channel number here to be the same as the channel number selected in Step 4 in **Creating the Ad Hoc Network**.

(12) The 5 character key entered here is the 5 character password entered in Step 5 in **Creating the Ad Hoc Network**.



>> cont'd >>

_____

..Leo

Last edited by PacAce : 18th of June 2008 (Wed) at 20:11.

quote

16th of June 2008 (Mon) #4

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

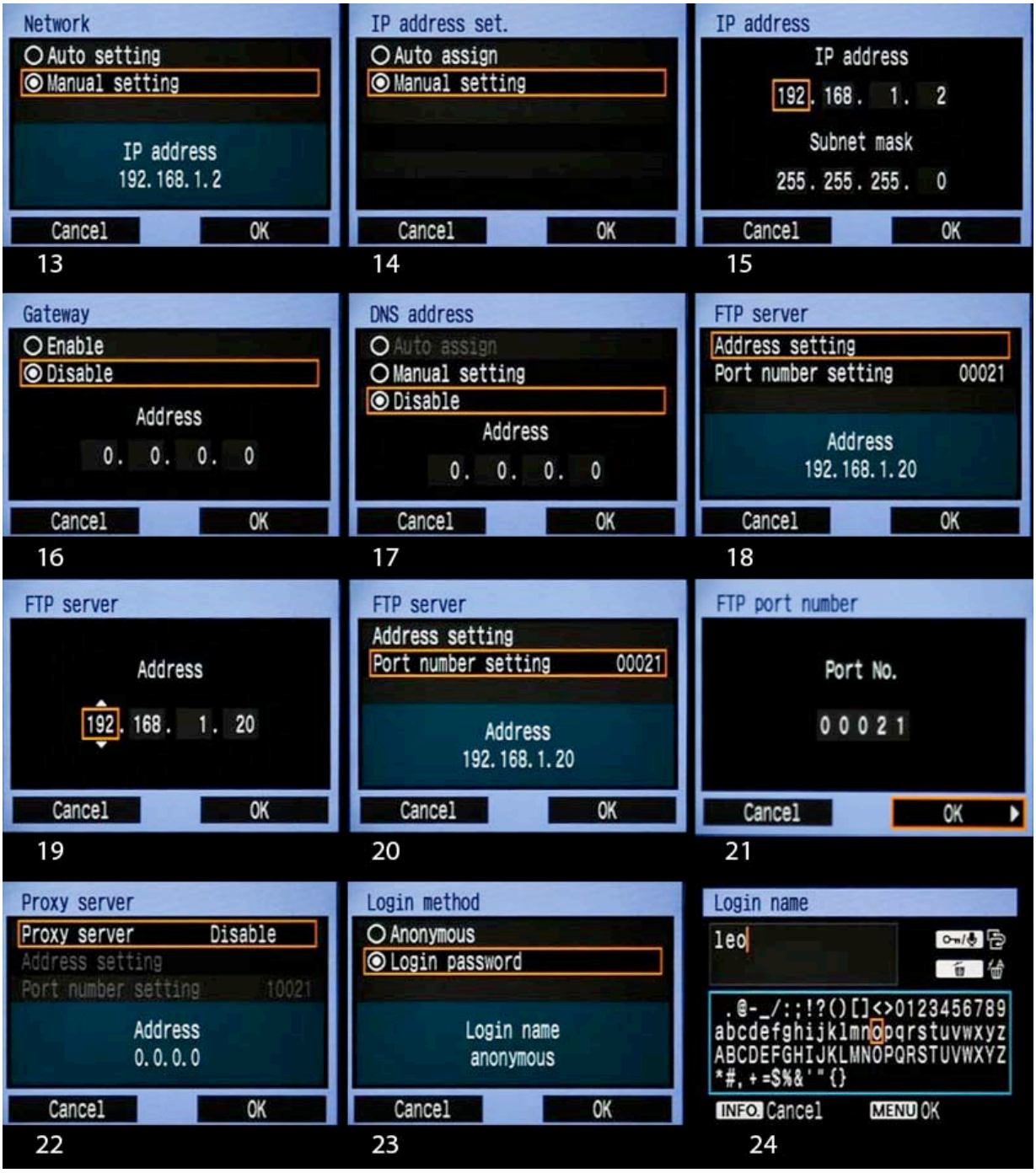
Configuring the WFT-E2A transmitter (cont'd)

(15) The IP address specified here is the IP address that will be assigned to the camera. You can leave this at the default setting.

(19) The IP address here is the IP address of the computer you want to connect the camera to. Specify the IP address that was noted in Step 13 in **Creating the Ad Hoc Network** above.

(24) To ensure that you can write to whatever folder on the computer you are going to FTP your image files to, enter the user ID you normally use to access the computer.

Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615



(25) Enter the password associated with the user ID specified in (24)

(26) & (27) The image files to be FTPed to the computer needs to be stored in a folder. You can have the images go into the Root folder (**/Users/*<user ID>*/** where<*user ID*> is the actual user ID name), or into a subfolder under the root directory.

(28) **Congratulations!** You have successfully configured an FTP session between your camera and computer.

(29) You can now save your new configuration so that you won't have to go through the whole setup process again in the future. You can just recall the saved configuration when needed. Up to 5 settings can be saved.

Once the FTP session has been established, you can set the camera to transmit images automatically as you are taking them and/or by selecting them and pressing the SET button to transmit the selected images. Select the **Set up** option (31) to do this.

(30) When reviewing images on the camera LCD screen and **Transfer with SET** is enabled, you will see the FTP icon in the upper left hand corner of the screen. If this icon is not shown, either **Transfer with SET** is not enabled or no FTP session is currently established with the computer.

(31) At the bottom of the screen you can see that **Error description** is grayed out. This is a good thing. If it isn't grayed out, it means that an error was encountered while trying to establish the FTP session. Select the **Error description** option to view the error message. Consult the user manual for a full description of the error and trouble shooting tips (the manual is a PDF file in the CD-ROM that came with your WFT-E2A transmitter).

(32) Terminate the FTP session by selecting **Communication mode** and changing the option to **Disconnect**.

..Leo

Last edited by PacAce : 30th of June 2008 (Mon) at 21:12. Reason: Spelling

quote

29th of January 2009 (Thu) #5

dfphoto
Junior Member

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 1

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Hi I get error 41 at the very end any chance you know how to resolve that?

quote

29th of January 2009 (Thu) #6

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **dfphoto**
> *Hi I get error 41 at the very end any chance you know how to resolve that?*

Error code 41 means that the transmitter could not connect to the FTP server. Take a look at page 76 of the WF-E2A user manual. That page tells you how to trouble shoot your connection problem.

..Leo

quote

27th of March 2009 (Fri) #7

Melodia27
Junior Member

Join Date: Mar 2009
Posts: 1

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

We are all of a sudden having issues with this. We did all of our updates and now the WFT-E2A works fine for about 10 minutes (I have a Canon iDs Mark III, shoot wireless, with a Mac using leopard and the latest EOS Utility) then the red light comes on on the camera, indicating I have lost power. Then I have to restart my computer, because I can't get my camera and the software on computer to come back on. Then after I restart my computer, everything works fine, for about 10 minutes and the same thing again. Tho, I have just discovered that if I turn my camera off before the alloted 10 minutes is up, and turn back on, that I can reboot the software without having to restart my computer.
Any way you can help? This is very irritating, especially when shooting an 18 month old!!!

quote

27th of March 2009 (Fri) #8

tkoutdoor
Senior Member

Join Date: Sep 2007
Location: Feeding my camera somewhere in Western Washington
Posts: 1,869
IMAGE EDITING OK

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Thanks for the detailed post. This may boost my interest in this device (once I get my first pro body).

Any idea what the wireless range is on this? Would it be enough to walk around a car show or a race track and still be able to communicate with the Post Processor's computer? If not, have you ever seen a wireless repeater used to increase the range to be able to manage this? Presumably a standard 802.11b/g repeater would do the job.

_____
Canon ~ EOS 1D MkIIn, 5D, EOS 20D, EOS 10D, 100-400**L** IS, 70-200 2.8**L** IS, 24-105 f4**L** IS, 17-40 f4**L**, 135mm f2**L**, 85mm 1.8, 50mm 1.4, 50mm 2.5 macro, Ext. tubes, TC's 1.4 & 2.0, Feisol 3441-S CF Tpod, Gitzo Traveler Mpod, Acratech ballhead, 550EX, 200EG bag, Epson Pro 3800 printer.

Last edited by tkoutdoor : 27th of March 2009 (Fri) at 14:39.

quote

27th of March 2009 (Fri) #9

dandig
Member

Join Date: May 2006
Posts: 209

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

wow! thanks for such a detailed post!!

_____

www.dancarrphotography.com
My Photography Blog

quote

27th of March 2009 (Fri) #10

ben_r_
-POTN's Three legged Support-

Join Date: Nov 2007
Location: Sacramento, CA
Posts: 6,286
IMAGE EDITING OK

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Excellent write up PacAce! Makes me wish I had one now!

_____
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quote

28th of March 2009 (Sat) #11

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **Melodia27**
> *We are all of a sudden having issues with this. We did all of our updates and now the WFT-E2A works fine for about 10 minutes (I have a Canon iDs Mark III, shoot wireless, with a Mac using leopard and the latest EOS Utility) then the red light comes on on the camera, indicating I have lost power. Then I have to restart my computer, because I can't get my camera and the software on computer to come back on. Then after I restart my computer, everything works fine, for*

Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

> *about 10 minutes and the same thing again. Tho, I have just discovered that if I turn my camera off before the alloted 10 minutes is up, and turn back on, that I can reboot the software without having to restart my computer. Any way you can help? This is very irritating, especially when shooting an 18 month old!!!*

Sorry to hear about your problem with the WFT-E2A. I've never experienced the problem you've been experiencing so I'm not exactly sure what's going on with your transmitter.

When you said that the red light comes on on the camera, did you mean to say that the light turns on on the WFT-E2A unit or is that light actually on the camera body? If it's on the body, which light is it?

Did you happen to notice if there was an error code generated when this happened? You can access the error code and error description from the camera menu for the WFT settings.

Would I be correct in assuming that you've already checked the obvious and made sure that the camera battery is not running low?

What firmware level is the WFT-E2A at? 1.0.1?

_____
..Leo

quote

28th of March 2009 (Sat) #12

PacAce

Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **tkoutdoor**
> *Thanks for the detailed post. This may boost my interest in this device (once I get my first pro body).*
>
> *Any idea what the wireless range is on this? Would it be enough to walk around a car show or a race track and still be able to communicate with the Post Processor's computer? If not, have you ever seen a wireless repeater used to increase the range to be able to manage this? Presumably a standard 802.11b/g repeater would do the job.*

The "published" range of the WFT-E2A is 492 ft (150 m) assuming there are no obstructions between the transmitter and access point connected to the computer (or the network the computer is connected to) and that a large high-performance antenna is attached to the access point. I guess what that means is that in the "real world", the range would really be less.

I've never actually tested the maximum distance I can get with the transmitter talking directly to my laptop without the use of an access point although I've been meaning to. When I get a chance, I'll do that and also see how much more range I can get when I connect the computer to an wireless access point.

_____
..Leo

quote

28th of March 2009 (Sat) #13

tkoutdoor

Senior Member

Join Date: Sep 2007
Location: Feeding my camera somewhere in Western Washington
Posts: 1,869
IMAGE EDITING OK

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **PacAce**
> *The "published" range of the WFT-E2A is 492 ft (150 m) assuming there are no obstructions between the transmitter and access point connected to the computer (or the network the computer is connected to) and that a large high-performance antenna is attached to the access point. I guess what that means is that in the "real world", the range would really be less.*
>
> *I've never actually tested the maximum distance I can get with the transmitter talking directly to my laptop without the use of an access point although I've been meaning to. When I get a chance, I'll do that and also see how much more range I can get when I connect the computer to an wireless access point.*

Sounds good. That would be good to know.

_____

Canon ~ EOS 1D MkIIn, 5D, EOS 20D, EOS 10D, 100-400**L** IS, 70-200 2.8**L** IS, 24-105 f4**L** IS, 17-40 f4**L**, 135mm f2**L**, 85mm 1.8, 50mm 1.4, 50mm 2.5 macro, Ext. tubes, TC's 1.4 & 2.0, Feisol 3441-S CF Tpod, Gitzo Traveler Mpod, Acratech ballhead, 550EX, 200EG bag, Epson Pro 3800 printer.

quote

9th of July 2009 (Thu) #14

mgaggl
Junior Member

Join Date: Sep 2008
Posts: 1

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Is it possible to receive the wireless jpgs from the Canon WFT-E2A on two computers?

quote

10th of July 2009 (Fri) #15

PacAce
Moderator

Join Date: Feb 2003
Location: ABE, PA USA
Posts: 21,615

Re: The WFT-E2A demystified: Wireless FTP (Mac OS X 10.5)

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **mgaggl**
> *Is it possible to receive the wireless jpgs from the Canon WFT-E2A on two computers?*

Not directly since the camera can only talk to one computer at a time. However, if the computers are sharing drives with each other or have access to a network drive, then it will be possible for both computers to get at the JPEG files sent by the camera.

_____

..Leo

quote

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FS USA WFT-E2A Wireless transmitter	joegolf68	Classifieds: Sell	1	5th of July 2007 (Thu) 02:43

All times are GMT +1. The time now is 00:14.

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